



# Livonia Public Schools

## *Human Resources*

TO: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent  
FROM: Keith McDonald, Director of Human Resources  
DATE: April 20, 2020  
SUBJECT: Student Internet Access

I would like to request adding the agenda item, Student Internet Access, to the April 27, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting so the Board of Education may be updated on the following:

Access to Internet and a device is not equal across the District. As our instruction moves to an online format, this digital divide negatively impacts our students without access. Per the Governor's Executive Order and because we believe in equal access for our students, we are taking every step possible to secure Internet access for our students.

The District, through its principals and teachers, have identified 88 students (76 families) who have reported no access to the Internet. The District has explored multiple avenues of securing access for these families and have settled on one. These range from low cost plans from cable service providers to purchasing hotspots, small devices that have unlimited data plans that devices can connect to for Internet. As school districts throughout the country also try to tackle this issue, the demand on these devices have skyrocketed.

We have been working with AT&T and have identified a solution that we believe will work for our students. We have ordered 80 Radiant Core Smart Phones through AT&T's K-12 program. These devices will function as a hotspot and all the phone/text/app functions will be disabled. As a hotspot, the device can support up to 5-10 devices depending on the use. Each identified family will also receive a Chromebook (multiple if more than one student) so that students can fully access their online learning opportunities, including video streamed meetings.

The devices and subsequent service will be funded through our partnerships with the LPS Education Foundation; the Livonia Chamber of Commerce; and Taffy, a local charity. All three are working to secure funding for the ongoing monthly service fee for unlimited data. Together, we are closing the digital divide and looking for long-term solutions.

KWM  
C: Board of Education